(d) if so, what initiatives Government would take to save Indian news agencies from the onslaught of foreign high tech news agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Indian News aegncies are independent of the Government.

Cancellation of Non-viable Foreign Aided Projects

*209. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to cancel non-viable foreign aided projects; and

(b) if so, what are the projects which will be cancelled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) Utilisation of aid and the scrutiny of non-performing portfolio is being subjected to continuous monitoring. Cancellation/restructuring of non performing portfolios are resorted to on the basis of the above monitoring procedures. However, it is not proposed to cancel projects only on grounds of non-viability.

Electronic Exchanges in West Bengal

*211. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to open new electronic telephone exchanges in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what are the details with proposed locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Details are given in the statement.

Statement

(*A*) *District-wise No. of exchanges proposed to be converted to electronic exchanges from electro-mechanical/manual exchanges and new electronic exchanges to be opened during* 1993-94

Name of the District	No. of Exchanges proposed to be converted to electronic	No. of New Electronic Telephone exchanges to be opened during 1993-94
1. Birbhum	10	4 (Binulia, Amdahara, Margram, Joy dev)
2. Burdwan	18	2 (Bardighi, Palla Road)
3. Coochbehar	4	..
4. Darjeeling	6	..
5. Dinajpur (Uttar)	3	..
6. Dinajpur (Dakshin)	4	..
7. Hooghly	10	..
8. Howrah	4	..
9. Jalpaiguri	8	..
10. Malda	3	..
11. Midnapore	13	2 (Mayagaon, Brojolalchak)
12. Nadia	15	..
13. Murshidabad	15	..
14. 24 Parganas (N)	5	2 (Bhangor, Thakurnagar)
15. 24 Parganas (S)	3	1 (Bakkhali)
16. Purlia	..	2 (Banduwan, Punch)
	121	13

(*B*) Out of the above proposed 121 exchanges, 30 numbers have already been convered to electronic exchanges.